## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-36 (Canceled).

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): A method of encoding audio visual media signals that are part of a videoconference with a recording apparatus, ~~characterised by the steps of~~ comprising:

configuring the recording apparatus as a participant in the videoconference,

[[(i)]] receiving, at the recording apparatus, a videoconference transmission from a computer network, said videoconference transmission including at least one audio visual signal and at least one protocol signal, ~~and~~

[[(ii)]] reading, at the recording apparatus, one or more protocol signals from the computer network pertaining to the videoconference transmission, ~~and~~

[[(iii)]] applying, at the recording apparatus, a selected encoding process to a received audio visual signal to generate an encoded videoconference, said encoding process being selected depending on the contents of said at least one protocol signal read,

storing the generated encoded videoconference in a memory device associated with the recording apparatus, and

outputting, at the recording apparatus, the encoded videoconference stored in the memory device to a reproduction device through the computer network.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended). ~~A~~ The method of encoding as claimed in claim 37, further ~~characterised by additional subsequent step of~~ comprising:

~~(iv) producing encoded output for a software player application.~~

transmitting, by the recording apparatus, a mute audio signal and a blank video signal

so the recording apparatus is maintained as a participant to the videoconference.


Claim 39 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method of encoding as claimed in claim

38, wherein the encoded output provided is adapted to be played to users reproduction device

did not directly participating participate in the videoconference.


Claims 40-44 (Canceled).


Claim 45 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method of encoding as claimed in claim

37, wherein a read the one or more protocol signals signal provides includes information

regarding any combination of one or more of following parameters associated with an audio

visual signal of a videoconference transmission:[[;]]

 (i) audio codec employed, and/or

 (ii) video codec employed, and/or

 (iii) the bit rate of audio information supplied, and/or

 (iv) the bit rate of video information supplied, and/or

 (v) the video information frame rate, and/or or

 (vi) the video information resolution.


Claim 46 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method of encoding as claimed in claim

37, wherein the a content of the one or more a read protocol signal signals is used to detect

the a time position of at least one keyframe present within an audio visual signal of the

videoconference transmission.

Claim 47 (Currently Amended): ~~A method of encoding as claimed in claim 46~~ A method of encoding audio visual media signals with an encoding apparatus, the method comprising:

receiving, at the encoding apparatus, a videoconference transmission from a computer network, said videoconference transmission including at least one audio visual signal and at least one protocol signal, and

reading, at the encoding apparatus, one or more protocol signals,

applying, at the encoding apparatus, a selected encoding process to a received audio visual signal, said encoding process being selected depending on contents of said at least one protocol signal read,

wherein the content of a read protocol signal is used to detect the time position of at least one keyframe present within an audio visual signal of the videoconference transmission; and

~~wherein~~ encoding keyframes ~~are encoded~~ into ~~the~~ an encoded output at ~~the~~ a same time position as keyframes are detected in an audio visual signal of the videoconference transmission.


Claim 48 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method of encoding as claimed in claim 37, wherein the contents of said at least one read protocol signal indicates a content switch present within an audio visual signal of the videoconference transmission.


Claim 49 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method of encoding as claimed in claim 48, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

detecting a content switch ~~is detected~~ from a freeze picture signal extracted from a protocol signal.

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method of encoding as claimed in claim 48, wherein further comprising:

detecting a content switch is detected from the a removal of a freeze picture request signal extracted from a protocol signal.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method of encoding as claimed in claim 48, wherein further comprising:

detecting a content switch is detected from a document camera signal extraction extracted from a protocol signal.

Claim 52 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method of encoding as claimed in claim 48, wherein further comprising:

detecting a content switch is detected from the removal of a document camera signal extraction extracted from a protocol signal.

Claim 53 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method of encoding as claimed in claim 48, wherein further comprising:

detecting a content switch is detected from an image incorporation signal extracted from a protocol signal.

Claim 54 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method of encoding as claimed in claim 48, wherein further comprising:

detecting a content switch is detected from the removal of an image incorporation signal extracted from a protocol signal.

Claim 55 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method of encoding as claimed in claim 48, wherein further comprising:

detecting a content switch is detected from a camera movement signal extracted from a protocol signal.

Claim 56 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method of encoding as claimed in claim 48, wherein further comprising:

detecting the detection of a content switch triggers the and triggering an association of at least one index marker with the encoded output at the a corresponding time position in the encoded output at which the content switch was detected.

Claim 57 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method of encoding as claimed in claim 56, wherein an the at least one index marker includes reference information indicating what content switch was detected.

Claim 58 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method of encoding as claimed in claim 56, wherein a protocol signal indicates the a time position of at least one keyframe present within an audio visual signal of the videoconference transmission, and the method further comprising:

wherein including keyframes encoded into in the encoded output that are positioned adjacent to or in the a same position as index markers encoded into said encoded output.

Claim 59 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method of encoding as claimed in claim 58, wherein keyframes encoded into included in the encoded output provided are positioned within a threshold time from an index marker.

Claim 60 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method of encoding as claimed in claim 58, wherein the keyframes are encoded included in the encoded output at the same time position as index markers.

Claim 61 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method of encoding as claimed in claim 38, wherein further comprising:

time compressing encoded output audio visual content of the encoded output is time compressed when a low content state is detected from a received protocol signal.

Claim 62 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method of encoding as claimed in claim 61, wherein the time compressing includes using a buffer is used to time compress the audio visual content of the encoded output.

Claim 63 (Currently Amended): A method of encoding audio visual media signals with an encoding apparatus, the method comprising characterised by the steps of:

[[(i)]] receiving, at the encoding apparatus, a videoconference transmission from a computer network, said videoconference transmission including at least one audio visual signal and at least one protocol signal, and

[[(ii)]] reading, at the encoding apparatus, one or more protocol signals, and

[[(iii)]] determining, at the encoding apparatus, the a time position of a first keyframe present within an audio visual signal received, and

[[(iv)]] encoding, at the encoding apparatus, a second keyframe into the an encoded output at the a same time position at which the first keyframe was detected in the original an originally received audio visual signal.

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Claim 64 (Currently Amended): A method of encoding audio visual media signals with an encoding apparatus, ~~characterised by the steps of~~ the method comprising:

[[(i)]] receiving, at the encoding apparatus, a videoconference transmission from a computer network, said videoconference transmission including at least one audio visual signal and at least one protocol signal, ~~and~~

[[(ii)]] reading, at the encoding apparatus, one or more protocol signals, ~~and~~

[[(iii)]] detecting, at the encoding apparatus, a content switch within the audio visual content of a received audio visual signal or signals, and

[[(iv)]] encoding, at the encoding apparatus, an index marker at ~~the~~ a time position at which the content switch was detected.


Claim 65 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method of encoding as claimed in claim 64, wherein index markers are encoded within a time threshold from ~~the~~ a time position of a keyframe.


Claim 66 (Currently Amended): A method of encoding audio visual media signals with an encoding apparatus, ~~characterised by the steps of~~ the method comprising:

[[(i)]] receiving, at the encoding apparatus, a videoconference transmission, from a computer network, said videoconference transmission including at least one audio visual signal and at least one protocol signal, ~~and~~

[[(ii)]] reading, at the encoding apparatus, one or more protocol signals, ~~and~~

[[(iii)]] detecting, at the encoding apparatus, a content switch within the audio visual content of a received audio visual signal, ~~and~~

[[(iv)]] encoding, at the encoding apparatus, a keyframe, and

[[(v)]] encoding, at the encoding apparatus, an index marker at ~~the~~ a same time position or adjacent to the time position of the keyframe encoded.

Claim 67 (Currently Amended): A method of encoding audio visual media signals with an encoding apparatus, ~~characterised by the steps of~~ the method comprising:

[[(i)]] receiving, at the encoding apparatus, a videoconference transmission from a computer network, said videoconference transmission including at least one audio visual signal and at least one protocol signal, ~~and~~

[[(ii)]] reading, at the encoding apparatus, one or more protocol signals, ~~and~~

[[(iii)]] detecting, at the encoding apparatus, ~~the~~ an existence of a low content state present within a received audio visual signal or signals, and

[[(iv)]] time compressing, at the encoding apparatus, the encoded output content during ~~the~~ a time period in which said low content state is detected within the videoconference transmission received.

Claim 68 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method of encoding as claimed in claim 67, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

using a buffer ~~is used~~ to receive videoconference transmission signals, ~~whereby~~ wherein a ~~the~~ rate at which ~~the~~ contents of the buffer is ~~played~~ read out to an encoding process determines ~~the~~ a degree of time compression applied ~~to the original videoconference content when encoded~~ in the time compressing.

Claim 69 (Canceled).

Claim 70 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for encoding audio visual media signals, said apparatus comprising:

~~a processor arranged for performing the method of claim 37.~~

a receiving unit configured to receive a videoconference transmission from a computer network, said videoconference transmission including at least one audio visual signal and at least one protocol signal;

a processor configured to,

read one or more protocol signals from the computer network pertaining to the videoconference transmission, and

apply a selected encoding process to a received audio visual signal to generate an encoded videoconference, said encoding process being selected depending on the contents of said at least one protocol signal read;

a memory device configured to store the generated encoded videoconference; and

an output unit configured to output the encoded videoconference stored in the memory device to a reproduction device through the computer network.

Claim 71 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for encoding audio visual media signals, said apparatus comprising:

~~a processor arranged for performing the method of claim 63.~~

a receiving unit configured to receive a videoconference transmission from a computer network, said videoconference transmission including at least one audio visual signal and at least one protocol signal; and

a processor configured to,

read one or more protocol signals,

determine a time position of a first keyframe present within an audio visual

signal received, and

encode a second keyframe into an encoded output at a same time position at

which the first keyframe was detected in an originally received audio visual signal.

Claim 72 (Currently Amended):  An apparatus for encoding audio visual media

signals, said apparatus comprising:

a processor arranged for performing the method of claim 64.

a receiving unit configured to receive a videoconference transmission from a

computer network, said videoconference transmission including at least one audio visual

signal and at least one protocol signal; and

a processor configured to,

read one or more protocol signals,

detect a content switch within the audio visual content of a received audio

visual signal or signals, and

encode an index marker at a time position at which the content switch was

detected.

Claim 73 (Currently Amended):  An apparatus for encoding audio visual media

signals, said apparatus comprising:

a processor arranged for performing the method of claim 66.

a receiving unit configured to receive a videoconference transmission, from a

computer network, said videoconference transmission including at least one audio visual

signal and at least one protocol signal; and

a processor configured to,

read one or more protocol signals, and

detect a content switch within the audio visual content of a received audio

visual signal,

encode a keyframe, and

encode an index marker at a same time position or adjacent to the time

position of the keyframe encoded.


Claim 74 (Currently Amended):  An apparatus for encoding audio visual media

signals, said apparatus comprising:

~~a processor arranged for performing the method of claim 67.~~

a receiving unit configured to receive a videoconference transmission from a

computer network, said videoconference transmission including at least one audio visual

signal and at least one protocol signal; and

a processor configured to,

read one or more protocol signals,

detect an existence of a low content state present within a received audio

visual signal or signals, and

time compress the encoded output content during a time period in which said

low content state is detected within the videoconference transmission received.


Claim 75 (Canceled).


Claim 76 (Previously Presented):  A storage medium containing therein a program

which, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform the method of claim

37.

Claim 77 (Previously Presented): A storage medium containing therein a program which, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform the method of claim 63.

Claim 78 (Previously Presented): A storage medium containing therein a program which, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform the method of claim 64.

Claim 79 (Previously Presented): A storage medium containing therein a program which, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform the method of claim 66.

Claim 80 (Previously Presented): A storage medium containing therein a program which, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform the method of claim 67.

Claim 81 (Canceled).